

TEXTBOOK OF GYNÆCOLOGY. By John I. Brewer, B.S., M.D., Ph.D. Second Edition. (Pp. xiv + 742; figs. 204. 120s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1958.

A TEXTBOOK of gynæcology of unusual presentation from a British point of view. The sectional arrangement provides much of interest, especially the presentation on childhood so often ignored in the standard works available in this country.

For a work of this nature it is impossible to escape from the view that it could be enlarged in many places with the elimination of irritating cross references, not at the expense of increased size but at the expense of material in Part II, some of which is redundant.

For a book of this size the illustrations seem insufficient, and many of the photographs could, with benefit, be replaced by clear line drawings. The work is produced primarily for the medical student, but in its present form it is difficult to believe that it is likely to displace any of the more standard works from the students' shelf.

As a work of reference for the postgraduate it is not wholly adequate, and the price can hardly be called competitive. However, within these limitations it makes original and enjoyable reading.

G. B. L.

MEDICINE AND THE NAVY, 1200-1900; Volume II—1649-1714. By J. J. Keevil. (Pp. xii + 332. 40s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1958.

IN this second volume of the history of medicine in the Royal Navy the late Surgeon-Commander Keevil describes the evolution of naval medicine under the Commonwealth and after the Restoration. Sea surgeons were adapting shore medicine to the particular demands not only of the casualties incurred by naval warfare but of ill health arising from long periods at sea. This led to the development of a corporate professional pride which preceded and anticipated the formation of the naval medical service. The increasing concern shown by the Admiralty is illustrated by the commissioning of hospital ships, the opening of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, the enforcement of quarantine and the establishment of naval medical statistical returns.

The story is unfolded in detail against the political and social background of the time, and the style is fluent and readable. References to manuscripts and published works are frequent and well documented.

Naval history has lost one of its greatest scholars in the untimely death of Surgeon-Commander Keevil, and this volume contains a memorial appreciation by Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor.

J. H. E.

SPEECH RECOVERY AFTER TOTAL LARYNGECTOMY. By C. J. Hodson, F.R.C.P., D.M.R.E., F.F.R., and Miss M. V. O. Oswald, F.C.S.T. (Pp. 36. 2s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1958.

THIS little book is written for speech therapists, but should be read by all laryngologists.

Part 1 gives a concise and interesting account of the investigations carried out to show the structures concerned in the development of speech after total laryngectomy. This includes cine radiography and clinical studies. A sphinctor or muscular ring at the upper end of the oesophagus is in a constant state of activity during speech, and it appears that this takes over the function of the vocal cords. The importance of diaphragmatic breathing is stressed.

Part 2 covers the application of these principles in the training of the laryngectomised patient.

Part 2, Section 3, consists of a series of ten case histories illustrating the problems encountered and the different methods of treatment.

The text is clear and there are two plates and four lined drawings.

K. H.